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Dated: May 24, 2004      Signature: *Staci Harris*  
(Staci Harris)

Docket No.: HO-P00965US0  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
James M. Musser et al.

Application No.: 08/160,965

Art Unit: 1645

Filed: December 2, 1993

Examiner: J. A. Hines

For: **VACCINES CONTAINING CYSTEINE  
PROTEASE AND METHODS TO PROTECT  
AGAINST GROUP A STREPTOCOCCI**

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated February 26, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated June 19, 2003. This amendment is being filed in conjunction with the reply brief to the Examiner's answer dated March 25, 2004. Please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.